

## **NOXIOUS WEEDS**

### **PROGRAM PROFILE**

<b>Goal</b>	To detect and delimit incipient infestations of exotic weed species, and to support weed management initiatives for those species which may cause damage to agriculture and native habitats.
<b>Enabling Legislation</b>	7 USC 2801; PL 93-269; The Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974.
<b>Economic Significance</b>	Estimated crop losses due to noxious weeds total \$20 billion annually.
<b>Principal Approach And Methods Used to Achieve Goals</b>	Prevention, inspection, detection, and control or eradication of selected weed species. Program methods include port-of-entry inspections, surveys to determine the scope of infestations, eradication feasibility studies, and other control and eradication projects.
<b>History</b>	The program began in 1979 with surveys in 25 States and Puerto Rico, port-of-entry inspections, hydrilla control in FL, and formation of the Technical Committee to Evaluate Noxious Weeds. Since then, program has conducted surveys and/or eradication feasibility studies on crupina in ID, goatsrue in UT, itchgrass in LA, hydrilla in CA and FL, and tropical soda apple in the southwest.
<b>State and Local Cooperation</b>	The affected States cooperate in all control and eradication programs at varying levels.
<b>Involvement of Other Agencies</b>	AMS (regional seed laboratories); ARS (accumulates and evaluates species data).

## RESOURCE DATA

-----Obligations-----

	<u>Direct</u>	<u>Reimbursement</u>	<u>User Fees</u>	<u>Staff-Years</u>
FY 1997	\$446,618	--	--	2
FY 1998	\$410,912	--	--	1
FY 1999	\$380,976	--	--	1
FY 2000 (est.)	\$424,000	--	--	1
FY 2001 (est.)	\$2,124,000			4

	<u>APHIS</u>	<u>Coop</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>CCC</u>	<u>Contingency Fund</u>
Cum.	\$14,650,699	\$40,810,702	\$55,461,401		

## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Response to Infestations

In FY 1999, APHIS cooperated with Federal, State, and private organizations to detect and rapidly respond to several incipient infestations of invasive plants, including new finds of branched broomrape (*Orobanche ramosa*), a parasitic plant, in four new Counties in Texas (Grimes, Freestone, Limestone, and Walker); small broomrape (*Orobanche minor*) in Oregon; giant salvinia in Louisiana, Texas, and the Colorado River Basin; and *Azolla pinnata* in Tennessee. Both Salvinia and Azolla are aquatic weeds. APHIS provided technical expertise to aid in the development of work plans for integrated control/ eradication programs for several of the new weed finds. APHIS responded to detections of *Avena sterilis*, a Federal noxious weed, and *Homeria*, a poisonous plant, in oats shipped from Australia.

### Tropic Soda Apple

The program continued Tropical Soda Apple (TSA) surveys and confirmed infestations were either eradicated or are under intensive management for eradication. APHIS personnel removed and destroyed exotic burreed (*Sparganium erectum*) plants, mistakenly imported from Holland, from retail outlets in 35 States.

## **Kudzu**

APHIS also continued cooperation with researchers at Mississippi State University to conduct an eradication demonstration for kudzu in northeastern Mississippi. The goal of State planners is to establish a cost share program to assist landowners in eliminating kudzu from their properties.

## **Invasive Plant Management**

In FY 1999, APHIS revised the Federal Noxious Weed list adding wetland nightshade (*Solanum tampicense*), and *Caulerpa taxifolia* (the first seaweed listed). APHIS listed *Caulerpa* in record time because U.S. Fish and Wildlife Scientists provided a risk assessment. We determined *Ipomoea triloba* native to Florida, and removed it from the Federal Noxious Weed list. Also, we updated taxonomy for two additional species on the list. We completed a risk assessment and drafted a rule to add the genus, *Homeria*, to the Federal Noxious Weed list.

APHIS published an interim rule adding general prohibitions and restrictions on the interstate movement of noxious weeds. We now prohibit the interstate movement of Federal noxious weeds except under permit. The restrictions require additional effort in responding to requests for interstate movement, but provides protective regulatory authority.

APHIS drafted an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking suggesting ways to improve the noxious weed regulations. We provided new categories of weeds and appropriate actions for each category for public comment.

APHIS continued to participate in the work of the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW), distributing the national strategy for invasive plant management and the weed fact book entitled "Invasive Plants: Changing the landscape of America." We completed an electronic version of the fact book and posted on the Internet.

## **Invasive Species**

In FY 1999, APHIS played a major role in implementation of Presidential Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species. A main goal is to establish an early detection, reporting, and rapid response system for new invasive species in each State. Also in FY 1999, APHIS continued to work with the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union to create a global early warning system for invasive species.